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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/748,527

12/29/2003

David Anderman

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20350

7590

06/14/2006

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EXAMINER

COLLINS, TIMOTHY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3643

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/748,527

Applicant(s)

ANDERMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy D. Collins

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/17/06.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-38 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-38 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/12/04, 6/7/04
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 30-38 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 10, 11, 12, 14, 13, 10, 16 and 18, 15, 19 and 20, respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 6,669,148 B2 to Anderman et al. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims, where different, merely omit limitations directed to non-essential parts from the claims of the '148 patent. Further, the change from "relies on" to "is configured to obtain" is no more than an obvious alteration of wording in attempting to broaden scope.

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer does not comply with 37 CFR 1.321(b) and/or (c) because:

Art Unit: 3643

An attorney or agent, not of record, is not authorized to sign a terminal disclaimer in the capacity as an attorney or agent acting in a representative capacity as provided by 37 CFR 1.34 (a). See 37 CFR 1.321(b) and/or (c).

NOTE: the attorney is listed in PALM however is not listed on the official declaration as the attorney of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 30-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Soviet MIR spacecraft and specifically the “Kvant” module (hereinafter referred to as Kvant) on the MIR space station, as seen at http://russianspaceweb.com/mir_kvant.html, and for a prospective to show the position of Kvant on MIR see <http://www.spaceflight.nasa.gov/history/shuttle-mir/multimedia/diagrams/shut-mir.jpg>.

Re claim 30, Kvant can be seen to be a supply canister “usable in orbit” with an internal space “for containing” supply material because it is a module that would carry x-ray and ultraviolet observation equipment as seen in the first paragraph of the description in the reference. Also the module had space for humans to move through

Art Unit: 3643

bringing cargo from the progress cargo ships that attach to the end of Kvant and therefore it was capable of containing material and therefore “for containing supply material”. Kvant had at least two docking ports to allow for simultaneous docking of two docking elements. The Kvant also obtaining stability and propulsion from the docking elements because the progress ship can supply propulsion and orbital stability and the MIR core module providing orbital stability and propulsion through the Soyuz craft on the other end of MIR. Also as seen in the MIR and the Kvant the Kvant has two docking ports configured to allow the canister to be driven by one of the docking elements (the one with the progress on it in the figure) into position for docking to the other element (the one that is attached to the core module in the figure). Also Kvant shows that there are electrical interconnects for connecting the canister electrical system (the solar panels and observation equipment (inherently included)) with the electrical system of a docking element. It can be seen that the electrical connections with the other docking elements are connected to Kvant in the last paragraph of the description in the MIR reference where it is stated that “so many communications were drawn through the hatches between Core and Kvant-1 that they had become virtually inseparable”.

Re claims 31 and 32, the limitations are taught by the configuration of Kvant since the module (70) can inherently be unpressurized (being pressurized requires certain structural qualifications while lack of pressurization does not; so a module that is taught to be pressurized is inherently a module that can be unpressurized if the mission so calls for). In the Kvant’s case the device was pressurized most of the time because the cosmonauts traveled through the module without space suits on, however at the end

Art Unit: 3643

of the MIR's life cycle, it was unpressurized at least as it broke up upon reentry of the Earth's atmosphere.

Re claim 33, Kvant is seen as being approximately cylindrical and is shaped to support pressurization without concentrated stress points because it is capable of pressurization in space.

Re claim 34, Kvant as seen in the figures is approximately cylindrical and the two docking ports include one at one axial location (the location by the Progress) and one at another opposite axial position (near the Core), as seen in the figures.

Re claim 35, Kvant can be seen to have a power subsystem for providing power in that there are solar panels as seen in the figures wherein the panels can be seen extending from the Kvant in the Z direction of the diagram of the MIR space station.

Re claim 36, Kvant discloses communications as seen in the rejection of claim 30 above in the communications wires that extend through the Kvant docking ports.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Soviet MIR spacecraft and specifically the "Kvant" module (hereinafter referred

Art Unit: 3643

to as Kvant) on the MIR space station, as seen at

http://russianspaceweb.com/mir_kvant.html, and for a perspective to show the position of Kvant on MIR see <http://www.spaceflight.nasa.gov/history/shuttle-mir/multimedia/diagrams/shut-mir.jpg> as in claims 30-36 above and further in view of USPN 5005786 to Okamoto et al.

Kvant discloses all of the limitations of claims 37 and 38 except for specifying that the docking ports have probes and cones for docking. However Okamoto discloses probes and cones as seen in figure 9 for the purpose of securely docking and providing electrical connections as well as damping between modules as seen in column 9 the last paragraph and column 10 the first through the third paragraphs and also in the brief description of the figure 9. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make one of the ports on the module a cone port and the other a probe port since such a decision is a matter of design choice and routine experimentation in the art. The disclosure of Okamoto is a broad teaching of the uses for the particular probe and cone apparatus and their specific layout is left to be dictated by the specific mission requirements, at which point the design is routine. As per the limitations of claim 38, Kvant shows the module connected to an intermediate space vehicle (Progress) at one end and a "space platform" (here, the Core of MIR) at the other. As discussed above with respect to claim 30, the module obtains at least orbital stability or propulsion from Progress.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 3643

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following is another view of the MIR space station.

- a. <http://www.russianspaceweb.com/mir.html>

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

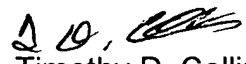
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy D. Collins whose telephone number is 571-272-6886. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:00-3:00, with every other Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on 571-272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3643

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 6/8/06
Timothy D. Collins
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3643